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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET

MAYOR SANDERS ANNOUNCES CRIME DOWN 8.1% IN SAN DIEGO LAST YEAR

Police Response to Citizen Calls Also Speedier Than in '07

Mayor Jerry Sanders today released annual crime statistics for the city of San Diego showing that crime was down 8.1 percent citywide over 2007 — the third consecutive year of declining crime.

The crime rate is calculated per 1,000 residents. In total, there were 34.56 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2008, compared with 37.77 in 2007.

The overall crime rate is based on totals for “index crimes,” including violent crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, and property crimes such as burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

In 2008, violent crimes saw an overall decrease of 4.5 percent compared with 2007. There were a total of 6,047 violent crimes reported in San Diego last year, compared with 6,331 in 2007.

Murder, robbery and aggravated assault all were down this year; however, the number of rapes has increased. There were 55 homicides in San Diego last year, compared with 58 in 2007 – a 5.2 percent decrease. The number of rapes increased 27 percent, from 296 in 2007 to 376 last year.

Property crimes fell 8.6 percent last year, from 44,167 in 2007 to 40,365. Property crimes saw a decrease last year in every category except burglary, which ticked up 0.8 percent; vehicle theft showed the most improvement with a 19.3 percent decline over 2007.

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Mayor Sanders also announced that the speed of response by the San Diego Police improved at all priority levels in 2008. Response to the highest-priority calls improved by 8.3 percent — from 7.2 minutes in 2007 to 6.6 minutes in 2008. Response times across all priority levels improved by an average of 3.7 percent, despite higher dispatches in the top four priority categories.

The 2008 annual crime report is available online at:
www.sandiego.gov/mayor/news/index.shtml

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